

## U.S. will pull out of Iraq

GENEVA (R) — U.S. forces will withdraw from Iraq soon regardless of whether Baghdad accepts the tough U.N. resolution dictating the terms for an end to the conflict, a U.S. official said Friday. "We're going to pull out soon. I can't give you a definite date but it's not conditioned on whether Iraq accepts the resolution," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Bolton told reporters. "If Iraq doesn't accept the resolution, they don't get a ceasefire and they don't get their oil flow turned back on, which is why we think ultimately they're going to have to accept it." U.S. President George Bush sent Mr. Bolton to Geneva on Thursday night to coordinate aid for refugees fleeing violence. The primary reference to allied forces in U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, passed Wednesday, says "conditions will be established" for them to leave Iraq once a U.N. observer unit is completely deployed between Kuwait and Iraq (see page 5).

# Jordan Times

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## Iraq offers amnesty to Kurds

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ FRIDAY offered amnesty to rebellious Kurds, but hundreds of thousands of refugees continued to besiege the borders of neighbouring states and the west began sending humanitarian aid.

A decree from the ruling Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) gave Kurds inside Iraq a week to take advantage of the offer. Those who had fled abroad had two weeks to report back to Iraqi authorities.

The decree, published by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said the amnesty covered all Kurds "except those who committed murder, rape and looting during acts of riots and treason."

Reports from Turkey and Iran say about two million of Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds are fleeing there, fearing reprisals by Iraqi troops following the collapse of their month-old rebellion.

## Iraq wants mission to witness treatment of Kurds

BRUSSELS (R) — Baghdad has asked for an international fact-finding team to witness its treatment of the Kurds following its offer of an amnesty to Kurdish rebels, the Iraqi ambassador to Belgium said Friday.

"We have asked the highest international levels to verify with a delegation what is happening," Ambassador Zaid Haidar told a Belgian television reporter, in an apparent reference to the United Nations.

Mr. Haidar added the delegation would be "well received" in Iraq but gave no further details.

Iraq earlier on Friday offered an amnesty to Kurds who took part in a rebellion. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds are fleeing Iraq.

France, Britain and the United States pressed the U.N. Security Council to adopt a resolution Friday demanding that Iraq stop its military action against the Kurds.

The three countries also want Baghdad to allow humanitarian groups into Iraq to reach those in need of help.

"There are hundreds, probably thousands of bedraggled, bootless, freezing people being driven across the mountains of Iraq by tank, helicopter gunships and so on," said Britain's ambassador to the U.N., Sir David Hannay.

"All that needs to be addressed by the council."

Mr. Hannay added that he thought there could be a vote on Friday on the resolution, drafted by France.

But reservations about the new draft are numerous and the text is

The government offer specifically mentioned Kurdish defectors from the police and armed forces who joined the rebellion. The decree said the government had ordered all its officials to abide by the terms of the amnesty. Those who returned would have their rights guaranteed.

"We are confident of the future despite treacherous plots against us, including what is happening at the council of injustice," the so-called Security Council's an RCC statement said after a meeting chaired by President Saddam Hussein.

INA reported that President Saddam Hussein was briefed by his number two, Izzat Ibrahim, on the Kurdish rebellion in northern Iraq. Mr. Ibrahim was in charge of putting down the rebellion and an earlier attempt by Shitites in the south.

The rebellion in Iraq's Shi'ite heartland began the day after U.S.-led allies declared a truce in the Gulf war on Feb. 28. The Kurdish rebellion began a few days later.

language Turkish Daily News. It said a deputy from his governing Motherland Party asked during a dinner if Turkey might resort to force.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal, meanwhile, hinted his country might take military action against Iraq and Iran's spiritual leader urged Iraqis to continue their rebellion.

Kurdish guerrilla leader Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said the amnesty offer "doesn't seem to be serious" and noted the government had declared similar amnesties after past rebellions.

"If the government is serious about its intent, then it has to announce that it is quite prepared to conduct a free referendum under the United Nations," he said in a statement relayed through the union office in Syria.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency reported that more than 70,000 refugees had crossed into its territory and that more than one million were trying to cross.

Mr. Ozal hinted at use of force against Iraq to stop the flood, according to a report in the English-

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## Palestinians' situation perilous, NGOs report

AMMAN (I.T.) — Measures imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities during and after the Gulf war have made life unbearable for the Palestinians living in the occupied territories and a new "pass system" introduced by the Israeli army has further aggravated the suffering of the people, according to a report issued by a panel representing non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Palestinians are also experiencing their most serious economic recession since 1968," said the report, released by the Coordinating Committee of International NGOs (CCINGO). The report gives a chilling account of the deteriorating situation for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — the curfew for weeks on end, tantamount to house arrest; the loss of jobs and the devastation of the economy.

Following is the full report, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times:

Four weeks after the end of the Gulf war, the strictly enforced night-time curfew is still in place over the 850,000 Palestinian residents of the Gaza Strip, while it has been lifted in some areas of the West Bank. Day-time curfews, many lasting for several weeks continue to be imposed throughout the occupied territories. For example, the village of Anabia was under curfew for 23 consecutive days from Feb. 28-March 22. As of today, the town of Qabatya has been under continuous curfew for 16 days. The residents of Beit Sahour have been under curfew for three days while those of Nur Shams refugee camp were confined to their homes for 14 days during the month of March. The two main commercial districts in Gaza City, Palestine Square and the Siras market have been under continuous curfew since January 16.

Despite the claims of Israeli authorities, life in the occupied territories has not returned to normal. On the contrary, Palestinians are being subjected to an entirely new form of domination — the pass system. All movement between and within the West Bank and Gaza Strip is now tightly controlled. No Palestinians are allowed to pass through or enter into East Jerusalem without a special permit, cutting off the majority of the Palestinian economy.

Residents and soldiers said that it did not take the Republican Guards — the elite Iraqi force — more than a few hours to recapture the city.

"They (the insurgents) did not put up strong resistance," said one

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...as Erbil remains serene and calm

By Sana Atiyeh  
in Erbil, Iraq

THE OUTSKIRTS of this green Iraqi Kurdish city were serene and calm on one day earlier this week but Iraqi troops still looked tired as they were piling up on army trucks to go home after battling for two days against Kurdish rebels who had controlled the city for 20 days. The city was recaptured by the government forces last Sunday.

Traces of light battles were evident some 15 kilometres outside Erbil, where damaged vehicles, some of them civilian, were seen. Military camps were spread out across the green-yellow plains. At what appeared to be a military base, four prisoners were seen wading outside the headquarters with their hands tied behind their backs.

But the fiercest battles took place in the centre of the ancient city where the main governorate building, government buildings and institutions, which were taken over by the rebels, were burned or badly damaged.

(Continued on page 4)



'SHOW OF SUPPORT:' A boy holds up a copy of the Holy Koran and a toy gun while a veiled woman also holds up the Holy Book at a rally organised by the Muslim Brotherhood after Friday prayers (see page 3)

Photos by Yousef Al-Allan

## Aspin ends visit to Jordan today

AMMAN (I.T.) — U.S. Congressman Les Aspin is expected to wind up Saturday a two-day visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein with whom he reviewed efforts for finding a solution to the Palestine question.

Discussions during the audience at the Royal Court also covered the impact of the Gulf crisis on the region and ideas for a peaceful solution to the Palestine problem, according to the Jordan

News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Aspin, who is currently on a tour of the region, was also received Thursday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with whom he reviewed efforts for finding a solution to the Palestine question.

Mr. Aspin also held talks with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, who reaffirmed Jordan's welcome of recent statements by President George Bush on settling the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis

general military situation in the region and Jordan's position vis-a-vis the various Middle East problems.

Mr. Aspin also held talks with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, who reaffirmed Jordan's welcome of recent statements by President George Bush on settling the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis

(Continued on page 2)

## Baker due in Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James Baker will visit Israel and Egypt next week to push for a Middle East peace settlement, the State Department said Friday.

Mr. Baker will visit Israel Tuesday and will stop in Egypt before his return Friday, spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

"The purpose of this trip is to see if we can bring the parties closer together," Ms. Tutwiler said.

She said that on his first trip to the region three weeks ago, Mr. Baker sought to establish agreement on basic approach and to explore possible steps that the parties could take to end the Middle East stalemate.

Mr. Baker will depart for the region on Sunday after conferring on Saturday with President George Bush in Houston.

The president and the secretary feel that another trip at this time will be helpful in this process," Ms. Tutwiler said. "It is important if we are to try and take advantage of the window of opportunity that all agree exists."

She added that the trip also underlines the U.S. commitment to work actively to promote and reconciliation among Israel, the Arab states and the Palestinians.

After his previous trip to the region, Mr. Baker had said he expected to be in telephone contact with the leaders there to discuss possible steps towards a settlement.

Ms. Tutwiler refused to discuss the outcome of those contacts, saying she was not going to play the "positive, negative, progress, non-progress game."

Mr. Baker has indicated that

(Continued on page 2)

## Yeltsin boosted

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian leader Boris Yeltsin emerged from a stormy parliament session Friday poised to challenge Mikhail Gorbachev with new executive powers and the chance to become the republic's first president.

The extraordinary Russian Federation Congress of People's Deputies set a June 12 presidential election date and granted Mr. Yeltsin temporary new authority to pursue more radical reforms than the Soviet president has implemented.

But reformers in the stalemated parliament failed to amend Russia's constitution to make the powers permanent under a new post of Russian president. They managed only to set May 21 as the date for another session to try to approve the presidency, and June 12 for the election itself.

Mt. Yeltsin, commonly called the president of the Russian Republic, is actually the chairman of its parliament.

After nine days of stormy debate, the congress was winding down to a conclusion that reflected the deep divisions between the hardliners backing Mr. Gorbachev and the radicals backing Mr. Yeltsin.

Mr. Yeltsin won no powers to enforce his new authority and there was no assurance local officials would obey him. The powers posed a risk for Mr. Yeltsin, who could be blamed more harshly for the republic's complex economic and ethnic problems if he fails to find effective resolutions.

But Mr. Yeltsin's new powers and the promise of election put him in a better position to force Mr. Gorbachev to cooperate with the assertive leaders of the Soviet Union's biggest and richest republic.

## Residents flood to Sulaimaniyah...

From Lamis Andoni in Sulaimaniyah

TENS OF THOUSANDS of Kurds who fled fighting between government forces and Kurdish insurgents were returning to their homes Friday as the Iraqi army appeared in full control of all major northern cities.

The refugees were coming back on foot, cars and army on their way to Sulaimaniyah, Erbil, Kirkuk and other Kurdish cities which were recaptured by the Iraqi army over the last week. At the northern entrance of Sulaimaniyah Iraqi soldiers were organising the flood of tired looking families — mostly women and children — who had taken refuge in the neighbouring mountainous villages.

A low-flying helicopter hovered over the area, as an army spokesman appealed to the Kurds through a loud speaker to return.

"They (the insurgents) did not put up strong resistance," said one

(Continued on page 4)

...as Erbil remains serene and calm

By Sana Atiyeh  
in Erbil, Iraq

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But the fiercest battles took place in the centre of the ancient city where the main governorate building, government buildings and institutions, which were taken over by the rebels, were burned or badly damaged.

(Continued on page 4)

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\* (Zerka) \* Ghuweirich (Zerka) \* Al Husn \* Filastin Street (Irbid) \* Ajloun.

Arab Bank

## PLO leaders meet on row over armed presence in S. Lebanon

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Central Council (PCC) is scheduled to meet in Tunis on April 21 and the key topics for discussions include the overall political situation in the Palestinian arena after the Gulf war and fears that another massacre of Palestinians could be in the making in South Lebanon, informed sources said Friday.

While the ongoing U.S.-led efforts to realize an American-Israeli version of a solution to the Palestinian problem and political splits with Palestinian factions remain very much on the centre-stage for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a sense of urgency also surrounds the situation in South Lebanon, where Palestinian guerrillas have been served a Lebanese government order to surrender their weapons to the army as part of Beirut's attempt to exercise its authority all over Lebanon.

Senior Palestinian leaders are holding urgent consultations to avert what they see as an impending catastrophe in Lebanon if the Palestinian fighters in the south were to be disarmed and exposed to Israel as well as rival militia attacks, Palestinian sources said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has been presiding over the meeting of the PLO's Lebanon Committee ahead of an April 30 deadline set by the Beirut government for its disarmament order.

Mr. Arafat's representative in Lebanon has rejected the ultimatum and the Lebanese defence minister has vowed to implement the order by the government of Syrian-supported President Elias Hrair.

In principle, the PLO welcomes the Lebanese government's effort to disarm all armed elements in the country, but it believes that the issue of Palestinian armed presence should be taken up by the Palestinian and Lebanese leadership "in a framework of common goals and struggle against the enemy," a senior PLO official said.

"We welcome the Lebanese government's moves to disarm the bandits and gangs in Lebanon and exert its authority all over the country," PLO Executive Committee member Mohammed Milhem said in an apparent reference to the various Lebanese sectarian militias.

But, he pointed out, the Palestinian armed presence is "different from the security situation in Lebanon since the Palestinians are armed to protect themselves as well as the Lebanese."

The Palestinians are also protecting Lebanese sovereignty against Israel," Mr. Milhem said. "We should work together to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanese land," he added, referring to a self-styled "security zone" that Israel and its surrogate forces maintain within Lebanese territory.

"We believe that the Beirut government and the PLO leadership should discuss the issue and reach an agreement based on this understanding," Mr. Milhem told the Jordan Times.

Behind the PLO concern over disarming its fighters in South Lebanon are several factors, including fears that the guerrillas would be left vulnerable to raids by the Israeli army and exposed to assaults by Lebanese groups which have for years maintained bosc-

tality towards the Palestinians. Furthermore, the Palestinian community in South Lebanon also represents the last vestige of Palestinian armed struggle against Israel.

Mr. Milhem dismissed as invalid a decree issued by the then government of Amin Gemayel in 1987 annulling a Lebanese-Palestinian agreement of 1968 which authorised Palestinians to carry arms in Lebanon.

The agreement was made between two parties and it cannot be abrogated unilaterally," Mr. Milhem said. In any event, he said, the Palestinian armed presence in South Lebanon is "closely linked with the aspirations and goals of the Palestinian people."

The ongoing meeting in Tunis of the Lebanese Committee — which comprises representatives of all PLO factions — is expected to issue recommendations to the Central Council's meeting on April 21.

The 80-member Central Council liaises between the 450-member Palestine National Council (PNC) — the Palestinian parliament — and the PLO Executive Committee.

PLO officials have repeatedly called for dialogue with the Beirut government over the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, but analysts expect little positive response from Beirut as long as the mainstream PLO leadership and the Syrian government remain at odds over Middle East peace efforts.

At least two Syrian-based PLO factions which are represented in the PLO Executive Committee have also rejected the demand for surrender of Palestinian weapons and called for talks with the Beirut government.

## Iranian opposition describes battle in Iraq

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group on Thursday described what it said were three weeks of battles with Iranian government forces in Iraq, including a major showdown this week.

U.S. officials have said there is no evidence to indicate any kind of serious military effort by Iran inside Iraq.

A State Department source who declined to be identified said late Thursday there has been no report of the April 1 battle described by the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq of Iran.

The U.S. spokesman for the Iranian Mujahedeen, Alireza Jafarzadeh, outlined what he said was a four-pronged assault by Iranian forces against rebel bases, displaying a battle map of the border area north of the eastern Iraqi town of Khanqin.

Mr. Jafarzadeh said 1,500 Iranian government soldiers were killed, while the Iraqi-based rebels, who waged a year-long battle against the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, lost 10.

He gave no details to explain why the battle was so lopsided, except to say that the resistance forces are superior to dismayed government troops.

He showed a videotape of interviews he said were with six captured government soldiers, as well as snatches of battle scenes and tank movements that could not be independently verified. He said the interviews were conducted on Tuesday.

Mr. Jafarzadeh also presented lists of the names of 150 Iranians soldiers purportedly killed in Iraqi territory and 20 Iranian military units he said had been used against the rebel forces.

He said the Iranians were taking advantage of unrest in Iraq to attack the rebel forces. Iran, he said, wants to install a fundamentalist Muslim government in Iraq.

The regime's forces in the latest assault, he said, entered Iraq on March 31 and launched their attack the next day.

"After 18 hours of fierce fighting, the regime suffered a major defeat," Mr. Jafarzadeh said.

The group, which says it wants to install a democratic government in Iran, called for United Nations investigation of Iran's cross-border activities.

Mr. Jafarzadeh declined to give details of the rebel force, but said it has high-powered weapons captured in previous assaults inside Iran and is supported entirely by Iranians.

"But right at the bridge, they

## Peace activists get a bitter, first-hand taste of Israeli rule

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A group of activists are now back in Amman after having a firsthand taste of how the Palestinians live under occupation, how it is like to take a message of peace and justice to the Israelis and how the Israeli establishment is paranoid over anyone who calls for a fair settlement of the Palestinian problem.

The Gulf Peace Team, whose 20 members undertook a peace march from Jericho in the occupied West Bank to occupied Jerusalem last week, encountered Israeli hostility and obstacles all along the 40 or so kilometres they walked from the biblical town to the Holy City, its members recount.

"It appeared that they (the Israeli military) were under orders not to allow the event at all," said Kathy Kelly, one of those who marched through the Holy Land. "Obviously, it was the first time ever that they saw anything like it and they did not know how to handle it," added Ms. Kelly, a veteran disarmament activist in the U.S. who had served term for staging anti-nuclear protest at home.

The group bad the first bite



Israeli soldiers and members of a "peace pilgrimage" to Jerusalem argue over the "legality" of the march at Jericho in the occupied West Bank last week (Photo courtesy: Gulf Peace Team)

taste of the shape of things to come right at Al Hussein bridge, across the River Jordan, Sunday, when three of its Indian members were not allowed entry. The reason: "India does not recognise the state of Israel and therefore Indian nationals should secure prior Israeli permission to cross the river."

Only one Indian, Miss Bela Bhadra, a social worker in the western Indian state of Gujarat, had such a prior permission and she was allowed across. Miss Bhadra "proved to be the best asset we had since she had to do a lot of tough negotiations with the Israeli army throughout the march," Ms. Kelly said.

Five or six Palestinian nationals

were to join the march, but

when they witnessed the protracted harassment they decided not to take part," according to Ms. Kelly.

The march was resumed after the ride, and the group went all the way to the Mount of Olives and occupied Jerusalem and the religious and historic sites there, including Al Aqsa Mosque, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Western Wall. At all these sites the Buddhist monks, carrying an urn containing religious relics, offered their traditional prayer for peace; much to the discomfort of Jews at the wall, according to Ms. Kelly.

"However, it was really moving to see people of one faith

paying their respect to all other

faths in all sincerity and honest

ty," she said.

Terasawa, who acquired fame

as the lone monk who bear the

"drums of peace" in front of the

American Embassy in Baghdad

for days in the run-up to the Gulf

war in January, and his comrades

also went around the streets of Jerusalem chanting and beating drums.

"Many onlookers were apparently amused at the sight," Ms. Kelly recalled. "But many also understood that it was a message of peace."

At one point, though,

Terasawa, the senior-most of the monks, was "briefly detained" by Israeli security forces. Ms. Kelly added.

Although, in the final analysis, the Israeli authorities appeared to have achieved their objective of keeping limelight away from the peace march — as was evident in the almost negligible coverage the event got in the international press — the peace activists are now in Amman with a better insight into how Palestinian life is like in the occupied territories after visiting villages and meeting with people there.

"We are aware that the treatment that the Israeli army gave us was only minimal compared with the restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people," Ms. Kelly said.

"We will now try to focus as

possible on the Israeli measures against the Palestinians and emphasise the need to protect the people living in the occupied territories," Ms. Kelly pledged.

"The arbitrary actions of the Israeli authorities have gone too far for the international community to keep silent anymore. It is time everyone spoke out and sought to do something about it."

## EC visit to Iran boosts relations

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos said Thursday that a European Community (EC) mission to Iran had been a "profitable investment" that could lead to renewed economic ties and an EC diplomatic presence in Tehran.

"Iran would like Europe to play a bigger role in the Gulf region," Mr. Poos said at a news conference on his return. "It is eager to foster economic links."

European Commissioner Abel Matutes will go to Iran soon to discuss reuniting an economic accord suspended over the U.S. hostage crisis and have talks on

the possibility of the EC opening an office in Tehran, he said.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati earlier described the visit as "a long and positive stride in relations between the EC and Iran."

Mr. Poos and the foreign ministers of Italy and the Netherlands, representing the current, last and next holders of the EC's rotating presidency, also discussed with President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani prospects for a long-term peace in the Gulf.

The Iranians are extremely worried about the rebellion of Kurdish and Shi'ite rebels in Iraq.

Saudi delays hold up fire gear

KUWAIT (R) — Delays at the Saudi border are holding up shipments of heavy equipment vital for putting out more than 500 blazing Kuwaiti oil wells, according to an U.S. oil industry official.

The Saudi Arabian's haven't been all that helpful in clearing the transference through customs of equipment... "Larry Flak, coordinator of fire-fighting for the Kuwait Oil Company, said.

Mr. Flak is coordinating the work of three U.S. firms battling to extinguish more than 500 oil wells set ablaze during the Gulf war. No fires have yet been put out because of lack of equipment and water.

The U.S. fire-fighters had so far capped 19 wells, which were gushing but not on fire, Mr. Flak said. He said 600 wells had been blown up in the war but about 80 were not on fire.

"Fire-fighters would probably be able to tackle the first fire next week when engineers were expected to complete a pipeline bringing water from the sea," Mr. Flak said.

"They're very, very close to finishing it (the pipeline). We'll just have water to some limited

areas but that will allow us to start working on wells that are burning," he said.

The Kuwaiti government said on Thursday that an Iranian delegation had met Kuwait's oil minister to discuss a role in fighting the oil fires.

"They discussed the possibilities of coordinating (assistance to) fighting the burning wells," it said.

The minister also received delegations from China and Britain. Most had been destroyed.

About 200 fire-fighters and support staff had arrived in Kuwait and the total number of reconstruction workers is expected to grow to 3,000, he said.

The Kuwaiti government statement said Kuwait would give priority to capping wells creating huge lakes of oil on land.

"Efforts are under way to contain the pools of oil by directing oil through trenches into a basin. From the basin, the oil will be pumped into containers (and) will be used again," it said.

He was not aware that any had yet been awarded contracts.

Mr. Flak told reporters many people were seeking fire-fighting contracts, including Iranians, Romanians, Russians and Chinese.

He was not aware that any had yet been awarded contracts.

Mr. Flak said that before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait it was possible to get equipment needed for an emergency from Saudi Arabia into Kuwait in 24 hours.

"You can't do that any more. It

said with obvious contempt.

Many Beirut residents seem to be in a daze, not quite sure that the terrors of civil war are over — at least for now.

They find pride in referring to their capital as "greater Beirut" — instead of the west and east which had been divided since April 13, 1975, when the war began.

On the orders of the government, thousands of regular troops were deployed across Beirut last December to reunite a city free of militias for the first time in the civil war.

Workers are busy repairing homes and shops and building new ones. The gunmen have been replaced by professional soldiers.

The wild driving will probably never change but now traffic police in smart grey uniforms and roads on the green line battle zone running through the heart of the city were opened to the public for the first time in many years.

Scores of abandoned neighbourhoods on the 12-kilometres frontline look as if they have been struck by earthquakes.

Every apartment block, house and shop is wrecked and bullet-riddled. Sandbagged bunkers remain, as well as painted graffiti and tattered posters showing which groups held each area as the war ebbed and flowed.

Wild trees have grown up amid the debris. Some apartment buildings still have faded canvas awnings rolled out over balconies, abandoned by families with no time even to close their front doors in the chaos of street battles.

Many Lebanese rejoice that they can now drive anywhere without being stopped by militiamen quizzing them about their sect or political sympathies.

"I don't even know where I am. I don't remember what these areas looked like before the war," said 30-year-old Hala Hamadeh on a tour of the ruins with a group of friends.

At weekends, many older Lebanese take their children and cameras to the devastated downtown area to recapture memories of where they lived and worked before the war began.

But some of the problems of war remain.

The telephone service is getting better, but Beirut has only six hours of electricity in every 24. The sound of private power generators sends a deafening roar across the city. Water trickles from taps only two hours every three days.

Piles of rotten garbage litter the streets, feeding hordes of cats, dogs and rats.

The only violent crackdown these days is against rabid dogs. Police with hunting rifles shoot dead hundreds of stray dogs in the streets of Beirut each night.

Children in torn and dirty clothes play in the rubble. Lebanese soldiers warn people

away from narrow alleys because many of the mines and booby-traps have yet to be defused.

Away from the ruined downtown, sparkling neon lights shine at night from restaurants and nightclubs whose owners say business was never so good.

Lebanese are once again flocking to the cinema instead of watching poor quality videotapes.

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During the war dogs lived and breed in the green line ruins. Now bulldozers and troops have driven them out into populated districts.

# Home News

## King attends Friday prayers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein attended Friday prayers at Aishah Um Al Mounin Mosque in Amman and listened to a sermon delivered by General Mufti Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi on the virtues and advantages of fasting.

Also attending the prayers were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Faisal

and Prince Hamzah and Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Prince Ali Ben Nayef. Also joining worshippers were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the Awqaf and Islamic affairs minister, the chief Islamic justice and government officials.







Jennifer Capriati

## Meskhi upsets Capriati

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — A listless and error-prone Capriati suffered one of the earliest defeats of her budding career when she fell to Soviet Leila Meskhi 3-6 6-3 in the third round of the \$500,000 Family Circle Cup Tennis Tournament.

With her first victory over a top-10 player, the ninth-seeded Meskhi earned a quarter-final meeting with third-ranked defending champion Martina Navratilova.

Top seed Navratilova advanced with a 6-3 6-4 victory over Petra Langrova of Czechoslovakia.

Second seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina also rolled into the quarter-finals with a 6-3 6-2 win over 10th-seeded Canadian Helen G. Sabatini who will next face No. 11 Czechoslovakian Helena Javna, 6-4 6-0 conqueror of Argentine Mercedes Faz.

Capriati, who turned 15 years old last week, appeared to recover from a shaky 0-3 start when she reeled off six successive games to take the opening set.

But the 10th-ranked American began making uncharacteristic errors in the second set and repe-

ated failed to take advantage of opportunities.

Meskhi took control of the baseline duel and levelled the match on her fourth set point when Capriati netted a backhand.

Capriati's backhand continued to let her down in the third set and she appeared sluggish and reluctant to go for winner as Meskhi built a 5-2 lead.

The American teen sensation finally displayed some fight as she produced a trio of match-saving winners to pull to 5-3 before the 17th-ranked Soviet served out the match in the ninth game.

"I really didn't go for it and she was making everything," said Capriati.

"I got the feeling that I didn't want to go for it," she continued.

"Maybe I was scared I was going to miss because I was making a lot of errors, especially of the backhand."

The other quarter-finals pit third seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain against unseeded Italian Federica Bonzignani and fourth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia against eighth seed Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union. .

## Agassi eliminates Engel at Orlando Tennis Classic

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi eliminated Sweden's David Engel 6-4, 6-4 as second-round play concluded at the Prudential Securities Tennis Classic.

"I won a lot of crucial points tonight by coming into me," Agassi said. "I dug out some low volleys that would have made Boris Becker proud. I'm starting to understand the logic of coming into the net, but I'm still not really comfortable with it."

Agassi's win paved the way for an all-American quarterfinal round the first time that's happened on the pro tour since the Volvo Pro Indoor Tournament in April of 1987, a span that includes 275 men's professional events.

Defending champion Brad Gilbert and MaliVai Washington also advanced to the quarterfinals.

The hard-serving Engel extended the points just enough to keep Agassi's victory from being routine. After Agassi scored a single service break in game five to take the first set, the match turned on a sequence of three consecutive service breaks in the

second set.

At 2-2, Engel sailed a pair of backhands wide to hand Agassi a break. But Engel set up a break point of his own with a screaming backhand passing shot in the very next game, and clinched it when Agassi netted a volley.

But Agassi struck back in the following game. Using his powerful groundstrokes to keep Engel pinned to the baseline, Agassi forced Engel into two backhand errors to score yet another break and grab a 4-3 lead.

After escaping three more break points on his serve in the next game to lead 5-3, Agassi served out the match two games later to advance to a quarterfinal meeting with Chuck Adams.

Earlier, Gilbert, seeded third, defeated Germany's Patrick Baur 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) and Washington beat Venezuela's Nicolas Pereira 6-1, 6-3. Adams struggled past Bryan Shelton 3-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-4).

For the second straight match, Gilbert played just well enough to win. Baur, ranked 91st in the world, appeared headed for defeat at 3-6, 2-4.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
© 1991 Tribune Media Services Inc.

### THE PERFECT DEFENSE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ A ♦ 7 5  
10 9 8 6 2  
Q

+ A ♦ 7 6

**WEST**  
♦ Q 10 6 ♦ A K 8 2  
J 7 3 ♦ void  
J 5 4 ♦ 9 8 7 6 2

+ Q J 3 ♦ 10 5 2

**SOUTH**  
♦ 9 4 3  
A K Q 5 4  
K 10 3  
+ K 4

The bidding:  
West Nonv East South

Pass Pass 1. 1 NT

3 3 Dbl 2. 0

Pass Pass Pass

\* — transfer to hearts

Opening leads: Four of ♦

The Mixed Pair event at the recent World Championships, held in Geneva, Switzerland, was won by Peter Weichsel, of Encinitas, Calif., and Juanita Chambers, of Schenectady, N.Y. Best performance by a married couple was by Kathie and Walt Walwick of Washington,

D.C., who came in third. The defending champions, West Coasters Pam and Jon White, finished a creditable seventh.

Most North-South pairs managed to stay out of game on this hand from the event. South's hand is not as good in support of hearts as it might look. Since North surely has a five-card or longer suit, the queen of hearts is a wasted value and the hand is riddled with losers in the other suits.

At most tables the lead was a diamond to East's ace. East shifted to the king of spades, on which West signaled encouragingly with the ten. Ace of spades and a spade to the queen completed the book and, also, the defense—declarer easily made the rest.

At a few tables, East found the winning defense. When West signaled with the ten of spades, East continued with a low spade. That enabled West to win the queen and continue with a spade to partner's ace. Now a fourth round of spades from East promoted West's jack to the setting trick. If declarer ruffed low, West would overruff; if South ruffed with the queen, the jack was sure to take a trick.

## Leeds seeks return to golden days

LONDON (R) — Leeds United, seeking a return to the golden days of the 1970s, could move closer to third place in the English soccer first division if they beat Wimbledon this Saturday.

A win at Plough Lane would put Leeds three points behind Crystal Palace with a game in hand over the south London club, who are playing in a domestic cup final Sunday.

Since Leeds last won the championship in 1974 they have never finished in the top three.

Wimbledon, who have never finished higher than sixth in the first division, had their 10-match unbeaten run ended by Manchester United in midweek but are determined to avenge an earlier defeat at Leeds.

They lost 3-0 at Elland Road last year and Manager Ray Harford said: "We lost hardly up there

over Christmas and it's up to us to get revenge. We have tightened up a lot since then."

Wimbledon fullback Terry Phelan is fit again after missing five games with a thigh strain but may be unable to win back his place in the side from on-form replacement Gary Elkins.

Leeds, who beat relegation-threatened Sunderland 5-0 on Tuesday, expect to regain centre-half Chris Fairclough, who hurt an ankle at Chelsea, in place of John McClelland.

Leaders Arsenal, the favourites for the title after thrashing Aston Villa 5-0 at Highbury Wednesday travel to Sheffield United looking for a win to go eight points clear of champions Liverpool, who are not in action.

With Liverpool out of the FA.

Cup, seemingly out of contention for the championship and currently banned from European competitions, Palace or Leeds might hope for England's sole European Football Union (UEFA) Cup place next season by finishing third.

But UEFA President Lennart Johansson has said he expects Liverpool, five points clear of Palace with a game in hand, to be back in Europe next season, a move which would dash the slim hopes of Palace and Leeds.

Manchester City, just one point ahead of Wimbledon, meet Nottingham Forest, who hope to have midfielder Terry Wilson back in their line-up just a week before their FA Cup semi-final against second division joint-leaders West Ham.

Andrei Kanchelskis, Manches-

ter United's £1 million (\$1.7 million) Soviet signing, will not be making his scheduled league debut against Aston Villa.

The 22-year-old winger has been delayed and assistant manager Archie Knox said: "We expected him this week but he has been delayed due to international duties. It may be next week or even later before he comes to Old Trafford."

Transfer-listed Lee Butler is pencilled in for only his sixth league game in four seasons for Villa as a replacement to keeper Nigel Spink, who was injured at Arsenal.

In the second division, former England midfielder Glenn Hoddle has his managerial debut for Swindon against Watford, now managed by former Tottenham team-mate Steve Perryman.

## HOROSCOPE

### FORECAST FOR SATURDAY APRIL 6, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

#### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

A day to be sure you do not talk out of turn or make any disparaging remarks about anyone at all for under today's poor aspects there could be swift anger and estrangement occurring suddenly.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Pleasure can be a bore and not at all satisfying even though on this day you own personal security of a material nature is alright.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20)

You have some interest in jewelry.

art in some form but this is not the time to dwell on such rather to get your health and charm improved.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21)

You have a terrific urge to get off alone to think out how you can be less restless and more practical and this is what is enroute today.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21)

Your interest in the lighter side of light should be postponed and you can wisely see friends and discuss personal problems.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21)

There are some business matters you can discuss this day with an astute higher-up who has the background of experience to answer you rightly.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22)

New visions and horizons dawn through which you can have far more of the things that mean the most to you so forget fun today and

pursue them.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22)

You have some serious or important arrangements to make that require you handle them with precision and in a truly cooperative manner.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21)

Being sure that you and your partners understand just what is the overall plan under which you are operating is very important for you.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21)

You have all sorts of jobs to do and there is no better time for doing this day when most everyone is in a earthy frame of mind.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20)

You want to have a good time and its alright if you have all that has to do with hobbies perfected so there will be no slip-up.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19)

This is the time to make sure you spend as much time as possible making repairs at home and doing that which pleases members of your family.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20)

This is the day to get out communications to others and to discuss with kin, neighbours and personal companions where you are jointly headed.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



'Real estate is very valuable!  
Let's sell a pail of dirt for  
\$25 and go out to a movie!'

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by Henry Arnold and Bob Lee

Uncramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**TIFAN**

**SLUPH**

**REMAID**

**HAMMEY**



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

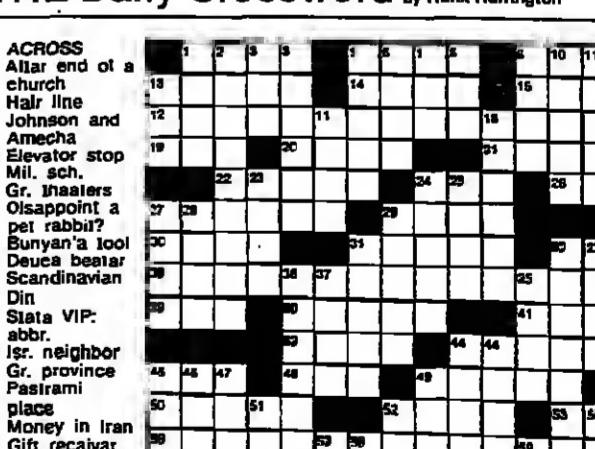
Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: HUMAN ALIVE PIGPEN TRUDGE

Answer: What you shouldn't find in a friendly handshake—AN "UPPER HAND"

## THE Daily Crossword

by Hank Herrington



## Report sees 'yen zone' unlikely

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Though Asian countries' debt is now mainly in Japanese yen, not in U.S. dollars, the yen does not play as much of a role as the Deutsche mark plays in Europe, according to a report to the International Monetary Fund.

Development of a "yen zone" like the "dollar zone" in the Americas is uncertain, it said. A currency is said to have a "zone" or an "area" when it is heavily used for international transactions in the region. Other countries in the region usually allow it to be freely converted into their own currencies and tend to keep their reserves in it.

The report was made by two members of the fund staff, Yuzuru Ozeki, a Japanese, and George Tavlas, a Greek.

It said that in the 1980s the share of Asian debt held in yen almost doubled, reaching 40 per cent in 1989. But Asian countries hold their reserves about 50 per cent in dollars, 15 per cent in marks and not much more in yen — only 18 per cent.

"European countries hold about 25 per cent of their reserves in (marks) and only about five per cent in yen," it added.

In 1987, the last year for which German figures are available, 81.5 per cent of West German exports were in marks. In 1988 only 34.4 per cent of Japanese exports were in yen.

The United States prices 96 per cent of its exports in dollars, and 85 per cent of its imports are also priced in dollars — including

many of its imports from Japan.

Major Japanese imports such as oil are traditionally priced in dollars whether they come from the United States or not.

World use of yen has nevertheless increased markedly in recent years. The report points out that Japan has had large surpluses in its international accounts and has become important in world finance.

Since 1985 it has been the largest holder of international reserves: \$290 billion worth in 1989, the report said.

Japan's role, it explained, has been promoted by its low inflation in the 1980s and appreciation of its monetary policy, the freeing up of financial markets in Japan and the increase in Japan's share of exports, especially to Third

World countries in Asia.

"Still, the use of the yen has been growing more slowly than one might expect given Japan's stellar economic performance," the IMF paper said.

It noted that foreigners have trouble getting bold of short-term Japanese securities and can earn only small returns on them. At the same time Japanese have been investing massively in other countries, so foreigners do not need income in yen to make payments to Japanese.

Japanese banks have been important in expanding the use of the yen, but they too have an advantage in borrowing foreign currencies: They lend the money to Japanese business people because foreign currencies are used so much for trade in Japan.

## Abadan oil refinery resumes full operations

**NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)** — Iran has made itself self-sufficient in petrol when it resumed full operations at its giant Abadan oil refinery, Tehran Television said.

The refinery was the largest in the world before it was damaged in the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Tehran Television, monitored in Nicosia, said the refinery in southern Khuzestan province, was inaugurated by Vice President Hassan Habibi and Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh.

It quoted Aqazadeh as saying production will be boosted by 130,000 barrels a day at the refinery, which started limited operation in February 1990, raising the total from 160,000 to 270,000 barrels a day.

Aqazadeh said Iran would no longer need to import petrol, which it used to do to make up a shortfall in domestic consumption.

Aqazadeh repeated that Iran intends to boost crude oil production from the current 3.5 million barrels to five million barrels a day sometime next year.

Industry analysts say that much

## Aramco to hire 1,000 new workers for Saudi oilfields this year

**HOUSTON, Texas (AP)** — Saudi Arabian Oil Co. (Aramco) wants to be ready to pump up its oil production after the Gulf war and is running national advertisements to hire 1,000 new workers this year.

The oil company said it plans to boost production capacity to 10 million barrels a day by 1995, five years ahead of schedule because of uncertainty in the oil business to the war.

Today, Saudi Aramco is producing about eight million barrels a day.

Saudi Aramco said it is advertising for engineers, nurses, helicopter pilots and other workers.

"We're recruiting everybody it takes to run an oil company and a community associated with it," said Bill Tracy, spokesman for Aramco Services Co., the Houston subsidiary of Saudi Aramco, which handles recruiting and purchasing of goods and services.

Tracy said Saudi Arabia wants to be prepared in case it needs to increase oil production to help

meet the world's needs as Iraq and Kuwait undergo reconstruction after the war.

Aramco hired about 300 workers last year, Tracy said.

The company, which is running national advertisements for workers, has gotten a strong response, Tracy said.

"The phone is ringing off the wall," he said.

Saudi Aramco, which was the primary fuel supplier to the allied coalition, employs about 45,000 workers from 55 countries.

Few of his company's employees joined the exodus of workers and their families from Saudi Arabia in the early stages of the Gulf conflict, Tracy said.

To help employees and their families cope in a stressful environment, the firm raised salaries 15 per cent last November.

Before the raise, salaries at Saudi Aramco were already 30 per cent higher than what similar jobs would pay in the United States, Tracy said.

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Despite the fact that most economic demands by miners were met as a result of talks between Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov and President Mikhail Gorbachev with representatives of miners' work collectives, strikes continue," the TASS news agency said.

The miners' representatives Wednesday initiated a pact that met most of their economic demands but ignored their call for

Gorbachev's resignation.

The Soviet leader Thursday vowed he would not step down.

At a news conference Thursday night, miners rejected the agreement as inadequate because it failed to take consider political demands and did not even measure up to economic concessions that ended a nationwide coal strike in 1989.

The resolutions and instructions of the Soviet cabinet of ministers, issued as a result of the meeting, did not even meet fully the demands coordinated in the 1989 protocols," said Anatoly Kuznetsov, a member of the Kuznetsov strike committee.

As the month-old mine walkout continued, other workers joined in calling for Gorbachev's ouster.

In the Byelorussian capital of Minsk, nearly 10,000 people walked off the job Thursday and staged a rally to protest the April 2 increase in the cost of food and consumer goods, TASS reported.

Workers from the Minsk automobile plant and a motorbike and bicycle plant, as well as doctors and students, joined in the demonstration.

The labour newspaper Trud

## SOVIET MINERS CONTINUE STRIKE, STOPPAGES SPREAD TO NEW AREAS

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Striking coal miners, ignoring an agreement reached with the Kremlin, stayed off the job Friday as work stoppages spread to other industries in protest of government price increases.

Despite the fact that most economic demands by miners were met as a result of talks between Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov and President Mikhail Gorbachev with representatives of miners' work collectives, strikes continue," the TASS news agency said.

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## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, April 4, 1991

Central Bank official rates

	Bid	Sell
U.S. dollar	677.5	681.0
Pound Sterling	1195.5	1202.7
Deutschmark	401.8	404.2
Swiss franc	475.0	477.9
French franc	118.7	119.4

Japanese yen (for 100)

Dutch guilder

Swedish krona

Italian lira (for 100)

Belgian franc

French franc

Italian lire

Japanese yen

Swedish krona

Norwegian krona

Danish krona

U.S. dollars

One ounce of gold

358.25/358.75

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling 1.7850/60

One U.S. dollar 1.6545/59

1.6665/72

1.6780/90

1.4040/47

34.31/35

5.6410/60

1238/1239

136.00/10

6.0270/20

6.4630/60

6.3920/70

One ounce of gold 358.25/358.75

Cinema Tel: 677420 CONCORD

Duraid Laham — Madlin Taber in Kafroon

Show: 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571 NIJOUNM

POLICE ACADEMY '6'

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238 PLAZA ADEL IMAM in THE PROFESSIONAL (Arabic)

Show: 12:30, 3:15, 8:00, 10:00 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 625155 RAINBOW Adel Imam — Mirvat Amin in TIT FOR TAT (Arabic)

Show: 3:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 634144 KARATE KID II

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 628543 VOLVO FOR SALE

★ Model: 740 Turbo ★ Year: 1987

★ Condition: Excellent ★ Colour: White

Extras: Air-conditioning - auto windows tinted glass - stereo - auto sunroof - new tyres.

Duty paid Call: 604863

Cinema Tel: 628543

WANTED

Live-in housemaid to start work immediately.

Please call tel: 639819

JOB OPPORTUNITY

INTERNATIONAL

The Philadelphia International Hotel, Amman has the following opening:

Position: Food & Beverage Manager

Applicants should have:

1. University or College Degree in Hotel Management.

2. Specialist in Food & Beverage.

3. Seven years experience.

4. Strong personality, appearance, ability to supervise and direct all F&B Department.

5. Age 30 - 40 years.

Information strictly confidential.

## Indian party seeks return of Pakistan-held Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has demanded the return of Pakistani-held territory in Kashmir as part of its platform for next month's general election.

BJP President Murli Manohar Joshi Thursday promised a rally of at least 300,000 Hindus in the Indian capital that if it won the polls, his party would demand that Pakistan return Kashmir territory which it controls.

The former Himalayan principality of Kashmir has been disputed by India and Pakistan since they became independent in 1947. They have fought two wars over the region. India controls two-thirds and the remainder is ruled by Pakistan.

The rally was called to press Hindu militant demands for the site of a 10th-century mosque which they say Muslim invaders built on the birthplace of their god-king Lord Rama in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya.

Joshi scored critics who said the campaign would alienate India's 120 million Muslims and fuel a separatist revolt in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority

state on independence from Britain in 1947.

Many of the Hindus, youths and aged holy men, came armed with tridents, swords and sticks to the rally in front of India's presidential palace, intent on turning the mosque site into the main election issue.

Laal Krishan Advani, the likely BJP prime minister if it wins the elections, denied his party sought a theocratic state in India, where three-quarters of the 850 million people are Hindu.

The rally marked an open alliance between the Hindu militant groups who organised it and the BJP. The party, which made major gains in 1989 polls, says it is bidding for power in May.

At least 2,000 people have died in the past 18 months in Hindu-Muslim riots over the campaign to build a grandiose temple to Lord Rama on the mosque site in Ayodhya.

Islamabad denies the charges but has urged a plebiscite on the future of Kashmir. Some 2,400 people have died in the revolt.

Some BJP leaders have proposed the eventual reunification of India with Pakistan, carved from the subcontinent as an Islamic

state testing at the lack of Pakistani backing for the uprising in Indian Kashmir, stopped 20 kilometres from the border Wednesday after receiving an invitation for talks from Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Jamiat and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman Amanullah Khan said a delegation of leading militants had met "some important" people in the Pakistani government who promised sympathetic consideration of their demands.

"We have given them until 7th April to accept our demands," he said. If they were not met, the march would resume Monday when the Lower House of Pakistan's parliament was due to hold a debate on Kashmir.

The unarmed militants began a march Wednesday from the Pakistan-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir capital of Muzaffarabad to the Chakothi frontier post 55 kilometres away, which they said they would cross even if it meant death.

Meanwhile, Kashmiri militants in Pakistan, seeking more support for their separatist fight against India, said Thursday they had put off protest march on the frontier until after talks with the Pakistani authorities Sunday.

Thousands of militants, pro-

## U.S. senator killed in plane crash

MERION, Pennsylvania (AP) — Sen. John Heinz and six others, including two children, were killed Thursday when a helicopter collided with his plane over a school.

The collision occurred as the helicopter was checking the landing gear of the senator's plane. Authorities said.

The children killed were on the ground. Most children were in class at Merion Elementary School and only a few were outside at the time of the fiery crash, said John Fowler, head custodian.

"Fifteen minutes later, there would have been 400 kids where the helicopter came down," Fowler said.

Heinz, 52, was in his third term in the U.S. Senate. Heir to the H. J. Heinz food fortune, he was one of Senate's richest members.

He concentrated on issues involving the elderly and on protecting steel from subsidised, foreign competition. He helped convince President Ronald Reagan in 1984 to negotiate pacts compelling steel-exporting nations to curb exports to the United States.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa, and three children.

Also killed were two pilots in Heinz' twin-engine Aerostar PA-60 and two pilots in the Bell 412 owned by the Sun Co., police said.

The aircraft burst into flames on impact and showered debris over the old stone houses and manicured lawns in the upper middle class suburb of Philadelphia.

The helicopter wreckage came to rest on the playground about 35 feet (10.5 metres) from the school. The plane fell to the ground on the other side of the building.

"The room started shaking and the windows blew open," said Joelle Morgan, 10, a fifth grader who was in math class at the time. "The teacher yelled, 'fire.' Everyone was crying. Everyone wanted to go home."

Three children and two school employees were injured.

## 6 killed as U.S. police overpower gunmen in store

SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Lawmen have stormed an electronics store in a burst of gunfire to end an 8½-hour stand-off with four hostage-taking gunmen. Three of the gunmen and three hostages were killed, authorities said.

At least 13 hostages were wounded and the fourth gunman was seriously wounded in the siege by dozens of officers, including deputies who sneaked into the store.

The gunmen were members of an Asian youth gang called the Oriental Boys and demanded safe passage to Thailand, guns, bullet-proof vests and a helicopter, Sacramento County Sheriff Glen Craig said.

The gunmen wounded two hostages before officers stormed the store and stood at more after the assault began, Craig said.

One gunman "walked... down the line shooting hostages" as officers opened fire, he said. "They were systematically being shot. All of the hostages were on the floor at the time our people went in."

Craig said the gunman demanded \$4 million in cash was false.

Seven deputies sneaked into the Good Guys store through a storeroom and hid inside for two hours before the assault, Craig said. They lobbed a concussion grenade that shattered the front-door glass to begin the charge.

Nine of about 30 hostages taken — two men, two women and five children — were freed earlier from the south Sacramento store in Florin Mall. The first three captives were released in exchange for one bullet-proof vest.

The last hostage to be freed, Sean McIntyre, was shot in the leg and sent hobbling to safety through the front doors.

## Slain Chilean senator buried

SANTIAGO (R) — Rightist demonstrators threw eggs at Chilean government leaders and screamed calls for a return to military rule at the funeral of an assassinated senator.

Senator Jaime Guzman was shot dead by unidentified gunmen Monday as he left Santiago's Catholic University.

Guzman, 44, a member of the rightist opposition Independent Democratic Union (UDI), was a key ideologue of Chile's military regime and forecast the 1973 coup in which General Augusto Pinochet toppled elected Marxist President Salvador Allende.

Guzman was buried with military honour in a ceremony attended by Pinochet, President Patricio Aylwin, who took over from the military regime in March last year, and other political leaders from the right and left.

The assassination was widely condemned in the press and by politicians as a crime not just against Guzman but also against Chile's fledgling democracy.

Aylwin, who last month un-

## 4,893 prisoners freed in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 5,000 prisoners have been freed from Bangladeshi jails since January under government concessions designed to curb prison mutinies, Home (interior) Ministry official said.

"The releases are made under a general amnesty... to the agitated prisoners who have been demanding early completion of their trials and reduction of the length of punishments," the BSS news agency quoted an official as

saying Thursday.

"A total of 4,893 convicts and under-trial prisoners have been freed between Jan. 15 and March 15," he said.

The government disclosed the figures apparently to defuse tension in Dhaka Central Jail and other prisons across the country.

At least 12 prisoners broke out of a jail in Narsingdi, 50 kilometres from Dhaka, last Sunday.

Police said the prisoners

attacked guards, grabbed their weapons and unlocked the main gate.

Hundreds of prisoners at Dhaka's maximum security jail, where five inmates were shot dead by police in early January, have been staying outside their cells for several weeks, an official said.

"Conditions are also not proper in jails in Chittagong port and other cities," he said but declined to give details.

Nick Nolte, wife file for divorce

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Nick Nolte and his wife of seven years, Rebecca, have filed for divorce in what was described as a friendly split. "Nick Nolte and his wife have stressed the divorce is amicable and they will have joint custody of their son," said publicist Paul Bloch, who represents the couple. The Noltes married on Feb. 19, 1984, and have a 4-year-old son, Brawley King Nolte. They live in Malibu. It was the third marriage for Nolte and the first for his wife, who was a model at the time of their wedding.

"No details were released about a property split or financial arrangements. "It is very amicable," said Bloch.

Carton of stolen heads dumped on New York street

NEW YORK (AP) — Thieves didn't get quite what they bargained for when they stole a box from a car and discovered six human heads were inside. The box, still containing the heads, was found in a gutter, after apparently being dropped there by the thieves, said officer Scott Bloch, a police spokesman. Dr. William Portney had been taking the heads from New York Medical College in Valhalla to New York Eye and Ear Infirmary for a class in medical dissection. Portney decided to leave the sealed carton of heads in his car when he parked in the East Village neighbourhood of Manhattan. Thieves broke into the car and stole what they apparently thought was marketable booty. "They got out a block away, looked inside and hopefully went stark raving mad," Bloch said. Taxi driver Gheorge Casas shooed away a group of people who were gawking at the box with its grisly contents and stashed it in his trunk until police showed up. "I asked someone what it was, and when they told me I thought it was no joke," said Casas, adding that he thought the heads "must be very important to someone." "This stuff only happens in New York," Bloch said.



## Dallas to end 13-year run

DALLAS (AP) — The banks have gone bust and now Dallas' TV show that made the city's skyline famous — and gave us the villainous J.R. Ewing — is down the tubes. CBS, the television network which airs the show, said Dallas will end its 13-year run this season, with the last episode on May 3. The news hit fans as hard as one of the show's notorious surprise, "stay tuned" endings. "Oh no," said Deborah Feldstein, who had travelled thousands of miles (kilometres) from Switzerland before hearing the news, clutching her heart. "In Switzerland it had a great impact." Mrs. Feldstein and her husband, Ilja, were among the handful of Dallas fans milling around Southfork Ranch, the Ewing clan's pretend spread in Collin County, just north of Dallas. Fans aren't the only ones grieving about the loss of Dallas, the nighttime soap opera depicting intrigue among the Texas big oil and jet set. "We have got to get another series," said Roger Burke, executive director of the Film Commission of North Texas. "The Dallas series... is one of the main draws for tourism in the city — the other being the Kennedy Assassination exhibit." Burke said. President John Kennedy was killed in Dallas in 1963.

"The series also helped the city's image as far as international business is concerned. Japanese and European car companies know what Dallas looks like because of the beginning of the TV show and they want those same glass buildings in the background of their commercials," he said.

## Thieves rob restaurant, leave big tip

HONG KONG (R) — Three robbers stole thousands of dollars from a Hong Kong pizza parlour — but left employees a generous tip, a police spokeswoman said. The robbers, armed with a gun and a knife, approached a Pizza Hut restaurant before it opened Tuesday and forced the manager to open the safe. They told the staff they would be rewarded if they cooperated. They fled with \$90,000 U.S. dollars (\$11,500) after being freed unharmed.

On Thursday, the 48-year-old former supreme court judge was brought directly to the national penitentiary. She said only: "The eternal is great and his mercy will last forever."

The apparent leader of the cop attempt was former interior and defense Minister Roger Lafontant, who wanted to overturn the results of the December election in which Aristide was chosen as Haiti's first democratically chosen president.

Lafontant, who once headed the Tonton Macoutes, the Duvalier's dreaded private militia, was taken into custody at the palace along with 15 alleged accomplices. They are still jailed and are awaiting trial.

Aristide has accused the Pascal-Trouillot administration of misappropriation of funds.

## Ozone layer thinning twice as fast as previously thought

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Earth's protective layer of ozone appears to be thinning about twice as rapidly as scientists previously believed, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has said.

EPA administrator William K. Reilly said new estimates suggest there could be an additional 200,000 deaths from skin cancer in the United States over the next 50 years because of the unexpected ozone loss.

"From day one, Toshibi Kaifu and the Japanese government were in strong support of the U.S. resolutions," Bush said.

"Japan stepped up early on to (make) a fundamental and substantial monetary contribution. Through those months of diplomacy before force was used, Japan played a key role," the president said.

Bush defended Japan's stance in Gulf

NEWPORT BEACH, California (R) — President George Bush has strongly defended Japan's decision to remain on the side-lines in the Gulf war, saying Tokyo's diplomatic and financial support had been substantial.

Bush also said the United States and Japan had made solid progress in resolving trade differences and that their relations were fundamentally sound.

His comments climaxed a one-day summit with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu at which Kaifu publicly complained about U.S. criticism of Japan's failure to do more to support the allied war effort.

Craig said the gunman demanded \$4 million in cash was false.

Seven deputies sneaked into the Good Guys store through a storeroom and hid inside for two hours before the assault, Craig said. They lobbed a concussion grenade that shattered the front-door glass to begin the charge.

Nine of about 30 hostages taken — two men, two women and five children — were freed earlier from the south Sacramento store in Florin Mall. The first three captives were released in exchange for one bullet-proof vest.

The last hostage to be freed, Sean McIntyre, was shot in the leg and sent hobbling to safety through the front doors.

Police said the prisoners

attacked guards, grabbed their weapons and unlocked the main gate.

Hundreds of prisoners at Dhaka's maximum security jail, where five inmates were shot dead by police in early January, have been staying outside their cells for several weeks, an official said.

"Conditions are also not proper in jails in Chittagong port and other cities," he said but declined to give details.

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